

REMARKS

The following rejections were noted in the April 20, 2004 Office Action. Claims 1 and 3-5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,250,771 to Sharrah et al. ("Sharrah") and further in view of U.S. Patent 6,024,471 to McDermott ("McDermott"). The Examiner also rejected claims 2 and 7-11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sharrah in view of McDermott and further in view of U.S. Patent 7,095,661 to Lebens et al. Claims 12, 14 and 20-23 were allowed.

The Applicants have carefully considered the Office Action mailed April 20, 2004 and have currently canceled rejected claims 1-5 and 7-11. The remaining claims 12, 14 and 20-23 were previously allowed by the Examiner. For these reason, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance and early notification of such allowance is respectfully requested.


Applicants reserve the right to pursue the presently rejected claims in a subsequent continuation application.

If any fee is due in conjunction with the filing of this response, Applicants authorize deduction of that fee from Deposit Account 06-0308.

Respectfully submitted,

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